

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
<b>Project Title:</b>	Sustainable Finance for Protected Areas in Sierra Leone
<b>Date of Report:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Nicolas Tubbs Tropical Forest Conservation Manager Nicolas.tubbs@rspb.org.uk

**CEPF Region:** Guinean Forests of West Africa

**Strategic Direction:** Consolidation

**Grant Amount:** US192,475

**Project Dates:** 1 January, 2009 to 29 February, 2012

**Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):** The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has worked very closely with the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL), and the Forestry Division (FD) of the Government of Sierra Leone, for more than 20 years, all three partnering to form the Gola Forest Programme. They have been involved at all stages to date in the development of the carbon project for the Gola Forest. Both continue to play a key lead role: FD as the Government organ responsible for the forest and CSSL as a local lobby group and advocate for conservation. Both CSSL and the RSPB are members of the BirdLife International partnership.

Winrock International was contracted to carry out some of the key studies and collaborated closely with the Gola Forest Programme as well as with the RSPB research and GIS experts. Winrock lead workshops and seminars at various stages of the project to raise awareness in Sierra Leone of the potential of carbon financing but also to lay out the various requirements for establishing a carbon project for Gola.

The project was carried out under the supervision of the RSPB. The project involved 3 local governments, 7 chiefdoms and the landowners around the Gola Forest Reserves. The Ministries of Finance, Lands and Presidential Affairs were also regularly consulted and involved in awareness raising workshops along with other governmental bodies, such as the Environment Protection Agency of Sierra Leone (EPA\_SL).

The University of Sierra Leone and relevant government departments (agriculture, district planning) were engaged to carry out specific aspects of research such as soil sampling and mapping for example .

The action also complemented a transboundary project between the Gola Forest in Sierra Leone and Lofa-Mano Forest in Liberia, as part of the Across the River Transboundary Project (ARTP). The entire forest area, covering over 200,000ha is hence subject of a €3.2million project submitted to the EU by the BirdLife International partnership. All the above Gola partners are involved in the ARTP, which is working towards the overall goal of establishing a transboundary protected area sustained through carbon financing and trust funds. This project is due to end in April 2013 though a no-cost extension is currently being considered.

## Conservation Impacts

***Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile. Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.***

The project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile by making significant progress to securing sustained financing for the conservation of a cornerstone within the Upper Guinean Biodiversity hotspot; the Gola Forest in Sierra Leone. The Guinean Forest of West Africa covers only 15% of its original forest cover and is seriously affected by fragmentation in addition to unsustainable human activities impacting the forest and its biodiversity

This project has also contributed to our efforts for the establishment and the recognition of the Gola Forest Reserves as a National Park, hence becoming the Gola Rainforest National Park, second National Park in the country and first rainforest one. Furthermore, this project has enhanced our understanding of the biodiversity value of the site as well as the range of ecosystem services involved, particularly that of carbon stocks. This project has been instrumental towards the implementation of a sustainable financing mechanism for this National Park through carbon trading and hence supporting pilot work to establish sustainable financing mechanisms for Sierra Leone's Protected Areas.

Furthermore, the project, by complementing the Across the River Transboundary Project, directly addresses the fragmentation of this biodiversity hotspot, resulting in the near future in a Peace Park between Liberia and Sierra Leone.

### **Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):**

Ensure long-term sustainability of the 75,000ha Gola Forest Reserves, a priority site within the Upper Guinea Forest, with support from carbon finance.

### **Actual Progress toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

The long-term sustainability of this priority site is well on track since it has been declared a National Park by the President himself upon the assumption that long-term funds from carbon trading would fund all core activities of the Park. The approved proposal stated the Gola Forest Reserves to cover 75,000ha, however the process leading to the National Park declaration revealed that the exact area of the park is 71,070 ha.

Though the development of a carbon project has proven to be a major undertaking with numerous challenges, progress towards a carbon financing mechanism for Gola is close to completion with two Project Design Documents (PDDs), one for the Voluntary Carbon Standards (VCS), the other for the Carbon, Community, Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA), to be submitted to auditors by the end of 2012 (attachment 10 details the work plans to deliver both PDDs). Revenues from carbon credits are therefore anticipated to flow as of mid 2013.

### **Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):**

Carbon projects as a means to protecting natural forests become government policy in Sierra Leone and pilot programmes established in communities surrounding the Gola Forest Reserves. During the feasibility stage, it was concluded not to carry out carbon projects in surrounding community forests. One of the reasons put forward was that it would be a too large undertaking because of the complexity of land tenure in community areas.

### **Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

The Sierra Leonean Ministry of Agriculture, but also the Forestry Division and the Environment Protection Agency, along with the Gola Forest Programme partners and an elected representative of all Paramount Chiefs, all signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the principles of a carbon project for the Gola Rainforest National Park (see MoU as Attachment 2). This MoU also outlines the legally binding documents to be developed, and agreed to by all parties involved, and details of how incomes generated from the sales of Carbon credits will be allocated. Workshops held during January 2012 in Kenema with GFP staff and partner organizations resulted in the creation of work plans to organize the tasks necessary to write the two PDDs (1 for the Voluntary Carbon Standards, see attachment 10b and 1 for the Climate,

Community and Biodiversity Standards, see attachment 10a). Tasks have already begun, work plans populated and budgets created in order to create a master plan for delivering the end products.

**Please provide the following information where relevant:**

**Hectares Protected:** 71,070ha (total area of the Gola Rainforest National Park)

**Species Conserved:** Includes but is not limited to 327 species of birds, >500 species of butterflies, 44 species or larger mammals, including endangered species such as chimpanzees, forest elephants and pygmy hippos.

**Corridors Created:** The creation of corridors is being explored between the Gola Rainforest National Park and the Loma-Mano Forests of Liberia through the ongoing Across the River Transboundary Project.

***Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.***

Challenges arose toward achieving both the short-term and long-term impact objectives of the project, particularly through the difficulties faced by the project team in securing historical information and documentation about the forests. Additionally the range and depth of expertise required for the development of the two gold standards mentioned above, the VCS and the CCBA to complete the PDDs was poorly understood when developing this project. Carbon financing is unfortunately not yet in place due to the challenges mentioned above, though carbon credits are still expected to generate an income for the park as of mid 2013. Some valuable lessons were learned (see specific section below) and considering the pioneering dimension of this project not only in Sierra Leone but also the wider region, the success of this project towards the sustainable financing through carbon trading for Gola is to be well acknowledged.

The main negative unexpected impact has evolved, paradoxically, around the National Park declaration (illustrated in Attachment 11) because to demonstrate additionality in a carbon project, documents should have been more explicit in stating that carbon financing is to provide the mechanism to fund the protection of the area. Likewise, securing a carbon project requires involvement of stakeholders from an early stage in the project design, including all those impacted by the implementation of the project on the ground. During the project development phase we had not appreciated that relying on top-level stakeholders communicating and trickling messages down to those on the ground was not appropriate and we are now trying to rectify these early misunderstandings (see (sensitization) meeting reports in Attachment 4).

Finally, two PDDs are being developed which is an additional challenge in itself, yet it has the advantage of securing two gold standards, one for communities and the other for biodiversity which will result in higher prices for the carbon credits.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

Overall, the unexpected impacts have been positive, as this project has been recognized as a cornerstone national protected area project with repeated support from the President himself as it is often said to be a reference for Sierra Leone's vision of a protected areas network (see Attachment 7).

Local communities have been particularly receptive to all the workshops and meetings detailing the requirements and the implications of the project (as detailed in Attachment 4), during the Chiefdom workshop in February, suggestions were made on how to improve the community REDD consultation process which have now been incorporated into project development (see Attachment 4b).

Another unexpected impact were the results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> feasibility study in relation to the carbon credits to expected from the Gola Rainforest National Park (the whole study can be found as Attachment 1). The results here differed greatly from the original feasibility study carried out by

EcoSecurities prior to this project. The EcoSecurities study quoted much higher potential revenues. However the conclusions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> study determined that income generated from carbon revenues will still be viable for covering all core operations of the management of the National Park.

The potential for carbon revenues to deliver the promise of a sustainable finance mechanism is generating significant interest and is paving the way, especially at the national level. The Government is now wanting to develop a National REDD Policy and is also in the process of developing a National Framework for Climate Change. Another long term impact of this project lies in the fact that carbon trading for the GRNP is seen as a stand alone added value for the GRNP which is very likely to be put on the tentative list of the World Heritage Site nominations for Sierra Leone.

## Project Components

**Project Components:** *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

### **Component 1 Planned:**

Strategy to complete Carbon Project Design Document in place and agreed by Gola partners

### **Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

When initial discussions were held with the probable Carbon Project Development sub-grantees to define terms of reference for the work and after an initial planning meeting was held in Sierra Leone in May 2009, we realized that particular attention was required to determine the various roles and expectations. All partners in the project attended the initial planning meeting and all recognized the pioneering dimension of this project and hence the need for external expertise to help see this through.

Determining roles and expectations required a lot more time than originally anticipated and involved numerous meetings and bilateral discussions between the partners and with the sub-grantees; a contract was eventually signed with the sub-grantees Winrock International (WI) mid 2010 in which tasks and the related support sought were broken down into two phases:

- (1) To review Sierra Leone laws and policies and make recommendations for what is needed to facilitate the secure management of carbon revenues nationally and to train the field team for data collection.
- (2) Facilitate the Carbon Project development process with a fieldwork team which was to be recruited. WI is then to provide guidance in developing the technical aspects of the PDDs for the VCS and CCBA.

A further two amendments were made with WI (August and December 2010) to reflect changes to the time planning and scheduling of the workshops. The latter took place in April 2011 (see detailed report as Attachment 6b) and supervised by a Forest Financing Officer appointed by the RSPB who began in January 2011 as the RSPB recognized the need for a dedicated member of staff to spearhead the process as well as play a supervisory role for the carbon work.

An initial REDD feasibility study was carried out (by Eco Securities, E-S) back in 2008 which was relied upon for the development of this project. Knowledge and methodologies in this field have evolved rapidly in recent years and there was a recognized need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> feasibility study to be carried out in 2011 (the feasibility report can be found as Attachment 1). WI's study unlike E-S's study was based on the methodologies developed for the Verified Carbon Standards, the leading standards for the Voluntary Carbon Market and so provides the most realistic forecast of the credits a carbon project in Gola is likely to produce.

The RSPB with support from GFP and local partners then began supplying WI background data for the development of this 2nd feasibility report, including GIS files of the Gola forests, forest cover analysis maps and other relevant information. Copies of the relevant Sierra Leonean laws were also supplied to the legal specialist, Climate Focus, sub-contracted by WI (to see the Climate Focus report, please see Attachment 5).

The results of this study (Attachment 5) were presented to the partners in September 2011. Based on these results, partners agreed to continue to develop a carbon project. Partners agreed that the RSPB would be developing this project on behalf of the Sierra Leonean government. It was also agreed that the project partners would seek the Government's input when high level decisions which may affect the viability of the project were required. This led to a Memorandum of Understanding, which was produced and finalized in December 2011 (see final document as Attachment 2) to (1) specify the structure of the carbon project, the related roles and responsibilities and (2) determine the flow of any revenues, generated from carbon trading. This document also outlines the overall strategy and outlines the necessary legally binding documents to be signed between all parties so the PDD can be validated.

All Gola partners as well as all the signatories of the MoU have agreed to the strategy to complete the Carbon Project Design Document. Furthermore, an agreement in principle was reached with CSSL and the Forestry Division that they would be sub-granted to provide staff for the field data collection phase.

#### **Next steps for the delivery of the PDD**

An extensive workplan detailing all tasks and activities for the submission of the two PDDs to the auditors has been agreed to and is anticipated to be completed in the next months (see work plans as Attachments 10a and 10b). A pre-audit of the baseline scenario and additionality arguments of the GRNP REDD project will be carried out shortly to ensure that the case we are developing for the baseline scenario, reference areas and additionality and the documents we have to prove our case meet the requirements of the VCS standards. We still require a significant number of documents from the Forestry Division to substantiate our argument and until we have these we are unable to proceed with the pre-audit.

Standard Operating Procedures to collect the ground truthing data were developed (see the procedures developed in Attachment 9). Four field campaigns were successfully led in Southern and Eastern Sierra Leone to capture the necessary information to develop the land cover maps which will show the historical deforestation rate in the reference area. This fieldwork was being overseen by a newly appointed Conservation Scientist who has been hired on a temporary basis. These maps are nearing completion and once completed will provide the first large scale land cover maps of their kind for Sierra Leone.

Income from the sale of carbon credits are anticipated to flow mid 2013 since the full submission for auditing is planned for December 2012.

#### **Component 2 Planned:**

Principles of community roles in developing carbon project established.

#### **Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

Workshops were held with project staff and partners to expand stakeholder capacity to develop and implement a carbon project (see Component 1 and Attachments 4 and 6). Strategies to engage Forest Edge Communities and the wider Chiefdoms were developed as a result of these workshops.

Community roles were spelled out in the Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to the strategy for future carbon project (see Component 1). The Paramount Chiefs elected a representative to be present in partner meetings on their behalf and to feedback the results of the meetings for

further discussion. This representative signed the MoU (see Attachment 2). Work plans were developed to organize the tasks necessary to write the two PDDs (1 for the Voluntary Carbon Standards, see attachment 10b, and 1 for the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards, see attachment 10a). Tasks have already begun, work plans populated and budgets created in order to create a master plan for delivering the end products. Additional staff have been temporarily employed by the Gola Forest Programme to fulfill the requirements of some of the tasks.

A community REDD engagement plan is being developed and the first stages of the plan have already been implemented. The first step involved a meeting of the Paramount Chiefs and the Gola Forest Program (see Attachment 4b). During the meeting, the plan to develop a carbon project for the GRNP was discussed amongst participants as was the need to renew the current benefit sharing agreement to include livelihood activities with Forest Edge Communities. The need to review the land owners register was highlighted by the PCs and to further disseminate information about the project to firstly section and village chiefs and then the wider population. How this work will be carried out has been developed and been discussed directly with the Forestry Division. As a result the Community Development teams undertook a series of meetings in the 7 Chiefdoms (see Attachment 4a) to duly inform the Village and Section Chiefs of the plans to develop a REDD project, what a REDD project is and how this will affect them. These meetings went well and now the team is preparing to visit the Forest Edge communities that have been directly affected by the implementation of conservation activities and who will be compensated via livelihood projects financed by REDD revenues.

**Next Steps:**

The next step will be to update the Gola landowner register, a further request made by the Paramount Chiefs. As per the creation of the landowner registry in 2008, the Provincial Secretary will be approached to facilitate this process. It is understood that along with the relevant Paramount Chief, meetings will be called in each of the Chiefdoms with the land owners that wish to be considered in the register. In this meeting the PS or PC will explain about the REDD project and request that each landowner signs an agreement with the FD/GoSL to establish that the government owns all carbon rights within the National Park. This will enable us to legitimately and transparently sell the carbon credits. We will contract the services of an internationally respected team of climate lawyers to review the wording of this agreement and subsequent community agreements. The next agreement that will need to be developed is a renewed version of the community benefit sharing agreement.

Therefore, the feasibility study first needed to be completed to secure the location of a carbon project before agreements with communities could be reached which is why this aspect of the work is directly dependent on Component 1. The timing of this component therefore shifted though principles and awareness of the communities about the project are all in place for an agreement with the communities to be finalized very shortly.

**Component 3 Planned:**

Laws and procedures for carbon management reviewed and changes and carbon project options proposed.

**Component 3 Actual at Completion:**

Reviewing and suggesting changes to laws and procedures for carbon management have been integral parts of the project and of the two components detailed above in particular. Component 3 however was subject to a distinct piece of work, an analysis of Legal issues (see Attachment 5), which was undertaken by Climate Focus, hired by WI and produced in August 2011. This analysis produced a series of recommendations, including (1) better coordination between ministries to ensure carbon related policies are implemented uniformly, (2) the use of a national REDD+ registry, (3) increased capacity across the government and (4) establish an independent arbiter for REDD in national institutional architecture. Detailed and specific recommendations can be found in Attachment 5, including that of specific laws and for the project.

The pioneering dimension of this project does imply that very few if any appropriate procedures and structures are in place to manage, monitor and oversee carbon work. Hence, this project has had to initiate, maintain and justify the momentum required here. The Memorandum of Understanding detailed in Component 1 which was signed by the Environmental Protection Agency of Sierra Leone, the Forestry Division, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), CSSL, the Paramount Chief Representative, the Gola Forest Programme and the RSPB is therefore groundbreaking the first step for carbon management (of protected areas) in Sierra Leone.

The conclusions of the report produced by Climate Focus were presented to the Sierra Leonean government and project stakeholders in September 2011. This report determined the process the project has undertaken since this workshop, including the production of the MoU and from there on towards the development of a Benefit Sharing Agreement for instance. The latter will supersede the previous agreement and it will fulfill all REDD+ requirements, and standards but also fits within national legislation.

**Component 4 Planned:**

Governments, civil society and communities have improved capacity to access carbon income.

**Component 4 Actual at Completion:**

Improving capacity of governments, civil societies and communities to access carbon income has been one of the red threads throughout the project. It materialized with the various workshops, the numerous meetings (both formally and informally) organized with all the stakeholders throughout and beyond the lifetime of this project.

Specific efforts to improve such capacity include (but are not limited to):

- Workshop to develop capacity and understanding of National and project scale REDD and the issues that would need to be addressed in policy to enable REDD to develop in Sierra Leone. The meeting was attended by Government Ministers and staff as well as NGOs and donors based in the capital, Freetown (April-May 2011) (see Attachment 6b)
- Workshop given in Kenema to build capacity on REDD projects and to discuss the drivers of deforestation around Gola and the potential activities a REDD project could implement. This targeted local partners, including GFP, CSSL and ARTP (April-May 2011).
- Meeting presenting the result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feasibility report and the Analysis of the Legal Issues was presented to the Sierra Leonean government, project partners and local communities through the paramount chief representative (September 2011)
- Workshop to develop the capacity of GFP and local partner organizations in developing a carbon project and training of field teams in data collection of carbon stocks and ground truthing (January 2012) (see attachment 6a)

This project has generated significant interest to this date, especially nationally where project partners are regularly called by third parties to provide their experience in establishing a carbon project for the Gola Rainforest National Park, despite the fact that this project has not yet been finalized, audited and hence not certified.

***Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?***

The carbon project is not finalized as of yet and hence the Project Design Documents (PDDs) for each of the two standards have not been submitted to auditors. Therefore, the long-term financial sustainability of the Gola Rainforest National Park is not yet ensured at present. The overall range and depth of expertise which has been required thus far, as well as the sheer complexity of

the two carbon standards and the context in which the project has been operating, have all impacted on the timeline of the project. However, the outcome of the project has in no way been impacted, as the PDDs will be submitted by the end of 2012 so that carbon revenues can flow as of mid 2013.

The financial gap between the end of this project and the actual submission of the PDDs for auditing will be bridged and pre-financed by the RSPB. The costs incurred by the RSPB during this period will be recovered from carbon revenues, once in place.

***Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.***

Here below the list of documents being provided electronically:

1. Carbon project feasibility report (attached)
2. MoU (attached)
3. Carbon maps of Gola reserves (being finalized and will be sent separately)
4. Community Consultation workshops (being finalized and will be sent separately)
5. Review report of existing laws and recommendations for Carbon projects (Climate focus legal review – attached)
6. Capacity building workshop reports (Report from March Workshop 2011 – attached, Programme from January workshop 2012 – attached and ‘workplans’ from WI for VCS and CCB)
7. Carbon projects discussed at other sites in Sierra Leone. Carbon briefing paper from the Forestry Division to demonstrate that other projects and REDD in general is being discussed in Sierra Leone can be submitted upon request.
8. Project Audit Report
9. Standard Operating Procedure Manual for the Collection of Ground Data Points for Calibration and Validation of a Landcover Map
10. Workplans for the completion of each standard
11. Pictures, including of workshops

## Lessons Learned

***Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.***

***Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)***

The development of the two PDDs requires a extensive range of tasks, skills and expertise. Hence, significant time and effort is required to prepare solid workplans but also to make sure community consultations provide all the appropriate information.

The risks of weak government support always remains and requires continuous effort and dialogue, just like convincing communities to support the carbon project.

Additional lessons learned from our experience in developing this carbon project include:

- The documents relating to the creation of a protected area that aims to be financed through carbon revenues, should be explicit in stating that carbon financing will provide the mechanism to fund protection of the area, if this is the case.
- There needs to be a clear baseline or ‘without project’ scenario that outlines the main threat to the forest area, with robust documents to back up the argument.



- In the 'without project' scenario the project will need to demonstrate that the area would not have reverted to forest.
- There is a need to assess early on (if you plan to follow a particular standard such as the VCS), that there is a method that is applicable to your project (assess the criteria for the methodology section). If there isn't such a methodology available, then one needs to factor in the cost and requirements of developing a new methodology. For instance, there is currently no VCS methodology for mining that incorporates mining activities as a baseline.
- Involvement of stakeholders at an early stage in the project design is key, not just high level stakeholders but those that will be impacted by the implementation of the project on the ground.
- Project developers must follow FPIC (Free prior and informed consent) procedures and ensure that stakeholders are aware that a carbon project is to be developed and what the impacts and implications of this will be. This also relates to (potential) holders of carbon rights in the area, so carrying out a legal analysis to identify who owns carbon rights in the project area is of great importance.
- Agreements will need to be made with all stakeholders on the structure of the project and benefit sharing mechanisms.
- Defining the project's additionality argument requires a lot of attention especially when it comes to providing proof and evidence of the case being put forward.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

An important lesson learned of relevance to the conservation community is the range and level of expertise required for the development of PDDs which need to be carefully assessed, implemented, monitored and resourced. It is important to tie such initiatives with National REDD projects and explore how an initiative like this one can serve as a model to the wider region (e.g using standards that demonstrate not only climatic benefits but also biodiversity and community benefits).

**Additional Funding**

***Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.***

The project was an essential component of the overarching Across the River: A Transboundary Peace Park for Sierra Leone and Liberia project (EU Grant Ref DCI-ENV/2008/151-577) though it was designed to be stand-alone (thus not reliant on any other donors to fund direct costs) in case other applications for funding were unsuccessful. In the event all funding approaches were successful meaning the project partners were able to implement a \$4,million, 4 year project in the area (still ongoing). This project provided invaluable resources to fund the component specifically dealing with sustainable financing (carbon credits) within the Across the River project envelope. A list of the various funding sources (other than CEPF) for the Across the River project is shown below. Please find a Project Audit as Attachment 8.

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
European Union	B	€2,447,286		Majority funder of the Across the River project. Project timeframe 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2013
USAID STEWARD	B		\$150,000	
USFWS	B		\$50,000	Restricted to ranger training within the Across the River project

				envelope
Basel Zoo	B	€14,400		Restricted to research work within the Across the River project envelope
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	B	€34,500		Provision of core staff time to project
BirdLife International	B	€24,000		Provision of core staff time to project
Vogelbescherming Nederland	B	\$188,000		Across the River project lead partner.

**\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

### Sustainability/Replicability

**Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.**

The great success of this project beyond the positive impacts already mentioned above, both short-term and longer term, is the planned replication of a sustainable financing mechanism through carbon trading in Liberia for the conservation of the Gola Forests. Doubts remain whether the ARTP will be able to secure a National Park in Liberia in the project's lifetime, yet lessons learned here as detailed in the previous section will need to be carefully considered and taken into account through the gazettelement process and before any replication is considered as a whole, whether that may be in Liberia or in the wider region. Achieving carbon financing is undeniably a huge opportunity for securing long-term financial sustainability, particularly for protected areas and preventing 'paper parks' though it needs to be tackled with caution.

**Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.**

n/a

### Safeguard Policy Assessment

**Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.**

Any implementation of the Carbon work as already detailed in sections above can also be considered to provide environmental and social safeguard policies, especially as these will be used as a reference when developing a National REDD Strategy.

### Additional Comments/Recommendations

This project has a pioneering dimension which is starting to attract significant attention especially nationally through the various national policy documents initiated by this project but also the World Heritage Site nomination. The Gola Rainforest National Park has now been included to the tentative list.



## Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

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**\*\*\*If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages\*\*\***

**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

**CEPF Global Targets**

**(Enter Grant Term)**

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.</b>	<b>Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2011-February 29, 2012. (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	yes	71070ha	71070ha	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.  Gola Rainforest National Park (officially declared Dec 2012).
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	yes	71070ha	71070ha	Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.  Gola Rainforest National Park (officially declared Dec 2012).
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes	71070ha	71070ha	Gola Rainforest National Park (officially declared Dec 2012).
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	no	n/a	n/a	Answer here is no, though the carbon work will much focus on the immediate surroundings of the Gola Rainforest National Park
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	no	n/a	n/a	The answer here is no because local communities did not accrue tangible socioeconomic benefits from this action directly and during the action itself. However, the carbon work and the revenues from carbon trading will accrue tangible benefits to the local communities living in the leakage belt of the park. This will include up to a maximum of 140000 people (direct and indirect benefits).

**If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table**

**Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities**

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under **Community Characteristics** and **Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit**, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:			Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other	
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities										
<b>Total</b>																					
<b>If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:</b>																					

